

PROGRAM FOR CIVIL SOCIETY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

(BO-0177)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**BORROWER AND:
GUARANTOR:** Republic of Bolivia

**EXECUTING
AGENCY:** Ministry of Justice and Human Rights

**AMOUNT AND
SOURCE:** IDB: US\$2.7 million (FSO)
Local contribution: US\$0.3 million
Total: US\$3.0 million

**FINANCIAL TERMS
AND CONDITIONS:** Amortization period: 40 years
Disbursement period: 4 years
Grace period: 10 years
Interest rate: 1% for the first
10 years and 2% for the
30 years thereafter

Inspection and supervision: 1%
Credit fee: 0.5%

OBJECTIVES: The objective of the program is to help the most vulnerable segments of the population gain access to justice and awareness of their rights by strengthening the mechanisms for the participation of civil society in the sector.

DESCRIPTION: To attain the stated objective, the program has two components:

- a. Projects with civil society: This component, to which most of the program's resources (75%) will be allocated, will channel resources to projects by civil society organizations whose objectives are to:
(i) strengthen and expand the services they provide to their beneficiaries in the area of access to justice; and (ii) train and educate the most vulnerable sectors of the population in their rights.
- b. Technical assistance: This component, which accounts for 5% of the program's resources, will be used to: (i) conduct training and dissemination activities designed to strengthen project design and management skills and to promote the use of the program's resources among potential program beneficiaries; (ii) conduct periodic evaluations to assess the accomplishment of the program's objectives and its impact; and (iii) design an information, statistics, and control system for management of the program and its projects.

ENVIRONMENT AND During the review process, no comments or recommendations were made with

**SOCIAL IMPACT
REVIEW:**

respect to the environmental or social impact of the proposed project.

BENEFITS:

The program will have a significant social impact since it is designed to improve access to justice and provide civic training for the most vulnerable segments of society (women, children, youth, and indigenous groups).

The program will contribute to establishing a mechanism for the participation of civil society and to improve the relationship between civil society and the State, by allowing civil society organizations to execute their projects in cooperation with the public sector in this area.

RISKS:

The most significant risk for program execution concerns the impartiality, transparency, and credibility that must exist in the project ranking process. This risk will be mitigated by the establishment of a review panel and the Operating Regulations of the program.

Additionally, a potential lack of awareness of the program's existence on the part of potential beneficiaries and the organizations that represent them may affect the demand for program resources. This risk will be mitigated by the activities for program dissemination planned and project preidentification already carried out.

Another risk concerns the execution capacity of the participating social organizations. To minimize this risk, the program calls for technical assistance to strengthen their project design and management capacity.

Lastly, there is a risk relating to the financial sustainability of the projects supported and of the organizations that apply. To minimize this risk, the Operating Regulations will help ensure project continuity and financial sustainability, demonstrate the financial soundness of the institutions and avoid the establishment of organizations solely to gain access to the program.

Thus, for example, a participating institution must have other sources of financing, must have been in operation for more than three years, and must make a minimum contribution of 10% to the project.

**THE BANK'S
COUNTRY AND
SECTOR STRATEGY:**

The main objective of the Bank's strategy for Bolivia is to reduce poverty, following three lines of action: (i) economic growth and creation of opportunities; (ii) development of human capital and access to basic services; and (iii) governability and consolidation of institutional reforms.

The program is consistent with this strategy, particularly with regard to the development of human capital and facilitating access to basic services for the poorest segments of the population, as well as consolidating reforms to support modernization of the State and the strengthening of civil society.

The program is also consistent with the Bank's overall strategy and with the efforts of the various agencies for international cooperation involved in this sector.

**SPECIAL
CONTRACTUAL
CONDITIONS:**

Prior to the first disbursement of the loan, the executing agency must submit evidence to the Bank's satisfaction that: (i) it has entered into a subsidiary agreement with the Ministry of Finance, establishing the terms and conditions for the transfer of the loan proceeds (paragraph 3.2); (ii) it has set up the

Technical Executing Unit (TEU), the staff of which has been selected, and has devised the mechanisms for managing the program resources (paragraph 3.5); (iii) it has selected and established the review panel in accordance with the terms agreed upon with the Bank (paragraph 3.9); and (iv) the Operating Regulations of the program have entered into force, in accordance with the terms agreed upon with the Bank (paragraph 3.10).

Up to US\$30,000 equivalent in costs incurred by the OAS for the selection and evaluation of the members of the review panel and the TEU and for procurement of the equipment necessary for TEU operation will be recognized as part of the local counterpart contribution (paragraphs 3.3 and 3.18).

**POVERTY
TARGETING
AND SOCIAL SECTOR
CLASSIFICATION:**

This operation qualifies as a poverty-targeted and social equity-targeted project, as described in the key objectives for the Bank's activities set forth in the Report on the Eighth General Increase in Resources. It is estimated that the program will directly benefit 20,398 individuals from the poorest segments of society, representing 85.4% of all the individuals who will receive direct assistance through the program (paragraphs 4.3 to 4.5).

**EXCEPTIONS TO
BANK POLICY:**

The program does not call for any exceptions to Bank policy.

**PROCUREMENT OF
GOODS AND
CONSULTING
SERVICES:**

The Bank's current policy will be followed for the procurement of goods and consulting services to be financed with the program resources. Since the maximum amount per project that the program will finance is the equivalent of US\$40,000, international competitive bidding procedures will not be required for the procurement of either goods or consulting services. Projects financed under the program will be reviewed ex post by the Bank's Country Office in Bolivia to verify compliance with the Bank's procurement procedures, based on an analysis of a representative sample of the projects (paragraphs 3.16 and 3.25).